



## ON THE RECORD

### Democrats Make Right Steps on Lobby Reform

June 1, 2007

#### **FROM MEMBERS OF CONGRESS**

##### **Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)**

“Honest leadership is not a partisan goal. It is the key to putting the interests of all Americans ahead of the special interests. House Democrats are leading the way to make the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress the most open and honest Congress in history. We are returning this House to the American people. We are changing the way Washington does business.”

[\[Statement, 5/24/07\]](#)

##### **Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD)**

“We said that we would provide open government and honest leadership...This is part and parcel of redeeming that promise to the American people.” [CNN, 5/25/07]

##### **Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-SC)**

“This is the people’s house. We must conduct business with honesty and openness so we can be held accountable by the American people.” [\[Statement, 5/24/07\]](#)

##### **Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D-IL)**

“The American people did not think that their interests and their voices had the same weight as the lobbyists and the interests they represent...This brings the field back into balance.”

[\[Chicago Tribune, 5/25/07\]](#)

##### **Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)**

The American people “were tired of a Republican majority that used their power of the gavel to promote the interests of very narrow special interests at the expense of the American people. We heard that message. Our new members, our returning members, heard that message. And we have followed through on our pledge to create the most open and transparent government in Congress, in history.” [Press Conference, 5/25/07]

##### **Rep. Zack Space (D-OH)**

“It is absolutely imperative that we break this circle of deceit that exists, that has existed, between lobbyists, their wealthy clients and this legislature.” [\[Washington Post, 5/25/07\]](#)

## **FROM THE GROUPS**

**Fred Wertheimer**

**President, Democracy 21**

“The two lobbying reform bills that passed today are a big victory for the American people and will provide citizens with important new information about the money links between Washington lobbyists and their Representatives in Congress...With the passage of these bills, and the adoption of landmark ethics rules reforms last January, the House has taken a major step forward in addressing the lobbying and ethics scandals that occurred in the last Congress...Enormous credit is due to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) for the skillful and effective leadership she provided for strong ethics and lobbying reforms.”

[[Statement, 5/24/07](#)]

**Bob Edgar**

**President, Common Cause**

“They've started to drain the swamp, and we commend the Democratic leadership and the freshmen members of Congress who pushed hardest for this.” [[Washington Post, 5/25/07](#)]

**Mary Wilson**

**President, League of Women Voters**

“The House has finally done the right thing, despite the arduous journey this legislation has endured the last several months. The leadership deserves credit for this victory for clean government...By requiring disclosure of the campaign contributions that lobbyists arrange and deliver to members of Congress, this legislation is a major step forward. For the first time, lobbyists will have to disclose campaign contributions they arrange and deliver to members of Congress.” [[Statement, 5/24/07](#)]

**Gary Kaman**

**Democracy Advocate, U.S. PIRG**

“Today’s votes on lobby reform take another important step toward reining in the corruption that plagued the last Congress.” [[Statement, 5/27/07](#)]

**Meredith McGehee**

**Policy Director, Campaign Legal Center**

“Speaker Pelosi and Representatives Emanuel (D-IL), Van Hollen (D-MD) and Meehan (D-MA) deserve credit for pushing hard to pass significant reforms.” [[Statement, 5/24/07](#)]

## **EDITORIALS**

**New York Times**

**Editorial: Closer to Reform**

“With their credibility on the line, House Democrats did the right thing yesterday by mandating disclosure of the lobbying industry’s power to purchase Capitol influence with richly bundled campaign donations to pliable lawmakers.” [[5/25/07](#)]

**Washington Post****Editorial: Cleaning Up Congress**

“It wasn’t easy, it wasn’t pretty and the battle isn’t over, but the House managed yesterday to pass a credible ethics bill that would require lobbyists to disclose the bundles of campaign checks they round up for lawmakers. [[5/25/07](#)]

**Newsday****Editorial: A start, at least, on lobby reform**

“Seeing political opportunity in the influence-peddling scandals that rocked the Republican-led Congress last year, Democrats promised voters lobbying reform. They came a step closer to delivering last week, when the House voted to require greater disclosure of the money lobbyists raise.” [[5/30/07](#)]

**San Francisco Chronicle****Editorial: Lobbying semi-reform**

“It wasn’t easy to pass even a partial reform of lobbying practice in Washington... It took the leadership of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a relentless push by freshman Democrats who ran against the "culture of corruption" -- and a last-minute assist from some Republicans, who added a few toughening amendments of their own.” [[5/30/07](#)]